



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU Department of Agriculture

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SISKIYOU COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM PLAN Fiscal Year 2006-2007

INTRODUCTION

Limited resources will require the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture to prioritize activities based on a risk assessment basis. The three core program elements will be incorporated into the pesticide use enforcement program plan.

PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM PLAN GOALS:

Siskiyou County will maintain a viable system of restricted materials permitting, compliance monitoring, and enforcement response that is of mutual benefit to the agricultural community, the environment, and the public while continuing to adhere to pesticide use Laws and Regulations. The Agricultural Department will promote an atmosphere of respect and understanding that will benefit both the public and permittees.

PESTICIDE USE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM PLAN CHALLENGES AND RESOURCES:

The Siskiyou County Agriculture Department has limited resources in staffing, data processing and funding. One pesticide use enforcement (PUE) Deputy with pesticide program management responsibility is in the Yreka office and the other is in the Tulelake satellite office on the east side of the county (100 miles from the main office). The deputies in charge of PUE work also have other agricultural program responsibilities. Each office has a ¾ time deputy for permit evaluation and issuance, impairing the inspector's ability to be in the field conducting site and pre-site monitoring activities. Siskiyou County is a large county with four valleys (Scott Valley, Shasta Valley, Butte Valley and the Klamath Basin), where much of the farming and ranching is located. Each valley is surrounded by rugged mountain ranges and one may encounter inclement weather and adverse driving conditions making travel difficult and time consuming.

Siskiyou County is not the only county that has budget deficits but it is a problem that hinders our ability to fulfill all agriculture, weights & measures and PUE program responsibilities. The Siskiyou County Agricultural Department budget is currently being impaired by cuts affecting training, travel (including rising fuel costs) and equipment maintenance. Despite the circumstances described above the Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture will provide a quality pesticide program to comply with CEQA.

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RESTRICTED MATERIALS PERMITTING PLAN:

Permit Evaluation:

When a restricted materials permit is issued or amended, it is evaluated for potential sensitive areas. Examples include but not limited to: residences, schools, parks, other sensitive crops, wildlife and endangered species.

Pesticide handlers are among those most likely to experience pesticide exposure (permittees and pest control businesses, including structural). The department has identified this as high risk. Siskiyou County has many permittees (small farms, small businesses, schools, parks, recreation areas and the general public) where the owner/operator/manager is responsible for various tasks including pesticide applications. Individual contact (on-site or during permit issuance) and continuing education (Annual Pest Management Seminars in Yreka and Tulelake) has been the most efficient route of information dissemination.

Continuing education seminars provide an excellent opportunity to maximize resource utilization and reach many applicators. With the cooperation of several local businesses and professional organizations, Siskiyou County has been providing high quality continuing education programs. This cooperation allows us to offer the seminar free of charge to attendees. The seminars provide current pertinent information specific to our region, including new laws and regulations presented by high-quality speakers, which has increased meeting attendance. The meetings also provide another opportunity for individual contact with local growers and license holders.

Employee safety and personal protective equipment (PPE) will remain a high priority. In instances where a permittee has employees and/or field workers, the county provides many opportunities for the permit holder to become informed and comply with employee and worker safety requirements. Information opportunities include: restricted material permit and operator ID issuing and amendment process, annual grower/applicator meetings, youth (agricultural days, classroom visits) and the general public (county fair, newspaper, radio, county weed tour, etc.).

The Yreka office, as of January 1, 2006, uses the Agriculture GIS program to issue Restricted Materials Permits and Operator Identification Numbers. The digitizing of field boundaries on aerial photos has increased the ability of the issuing Deputy to evaluate the permit at the time of issuance and assist the Deputy in the field while locating sites and conducting inspections. The ability to access this information when the permittee is present plus having the information linked to the permitting program and the mapping program at the same time, is extremely beneficial. Implementing the Agriculture GIS program took considerable time and lengthened the amount of time needed to issue Permits and Operator ID's. In most cases, this was an implementing issue and the additional hours to issue Permits and Operator ID's will drop in the next fiscal year when permittees renew. (During the process of issuing of Permits and Operator ID's, using the Agriculture GIS program, aerial photos were compared to maps in the permittees file. Many discrepancies were identified and corrected, accounting for some of the additional time it took to issue Permits and Operator ID's.)

The Tulelake office currently uses the DOS based DataFlex database program to run the California Department of Pesticide Regulation Restricted Materials Permit and Operator Identification

Number Program. Due to the cost of purchasing an ArcView/ArcInfo license, the implementation of the Agriculture GIS program in Tulelake will be attempted in a future budget request.

Siskiyou County has several Groundwater Protection Areas (GPA). The amount of 6800(a) pesticides applied in the entire county is minimal. Each permit and use report record is evaluated at time of issuance to determine if any of the 6800(a) products will be applied to land within the GPA's. The permittees are informed of the GPA's and if they intent to apply such products, mitigation measures (one or more of the measures outlined in the Code of Regulations) are discussed and added to the permit.

Site Monitoring Plan:

The Department will maintain a high response level to sensitive areas (at least 5% pre-application monitoring inspections to fulfill CEQA requirements). This includes sites identified at issuance or amendments of restricted material permits, notice of intents and complaints received. Priorities for site monitoring inspections include but not limited to: areas where pesticide applications pose a potential risk to people, animals and/or the environment, crops, endangered species and habitat, schools, parks, specific pesticides (Vapam, Telone, Di-Syston, Methyl Bromide) and the National Wildlife Refuge in Tulelake.

COMPLIANCE MONITORING:

Compliance Monitoring Plan:

The site monitoring plan sets the stage for compliance monitoring. Sensitive sites identified in the site monitoring plan will be a priority when planning for use application monitoring inspections. Effective and comprehensive compliance monitoring is a priority in Siskiyou County. The department realizes that it is essential to assuring the safety of pesticide handlers, fieldworkers, the public, and the environment. The compliance monitoring plan includes pesticide use and records inspections, episode and complaint investigations and surveillance. Structural, industrial, business, home owner and other non-ag application inspections are conducted, where possible, for their potential impact to sensitive areas. Mitigation measures are implemented as needed. Structural, industrial, business, home owner and non-ag areas are where a majority of pesticide complaints, incidents (including anti-microbial) and investigations originate

Comprehensive Inspection Plan:

Siskiyou County will continue to conduct random inspections in addition to sensitive sites that have been previously identified. Many of the products used in Siskiyou County are non-restricted, but due to their toxicity to various potential sensitive receptors, compliance monitoring is needed to help assure safe and legal use of these products. Inspectors must be familiar with pest management practices to know when specific pests are being targeted with materials that do not require a NOI. Surveillance inspections will be maintained to assure pesticide use compliance.

The department will encourage inspector training and cooperative inspections with the DPR Enforcement Branch Liaison. Training is needed to ensure that PUE inspectors are using a uniform process consistent with the Enforcement Response Policy (ERP). The ERP and the Pesticide Use Enforcement Program Standards Compendium is a reference tool for inspectors.

Siskiyou County will continue to identify repeat violators and non-compliance situations. The department will also explore why the violations and non-compliances occurred, including risk, violation history, pesticide episode occurrence and pesticide use activities, and develop a corrective plan with goals to measure the success for each situation and episode. Education and progressive discipline makes obtaining sustainable compliance more achievable.

Investigation and Complaint Plan:

Investigations, compliance actions and reports will continue to be timely, accurate and thorough. Priority episodes are few in Siskiyou County. Priority episode investigations will be initiated within two working days from notification. Preliminary update reports will be submitted to DPR within 15 days of the original notification and completed priority investigation reports will be submitted within 60 days. Non-priority investigations will be given appropriate, timely attention and submitted to DPR within 120 days.

Investigations, following the Enforcement Response Plan and Pesticide Use Enforcement Program Standards Compendium, will start with a brief plan that includes but not limited to: interview the complainant and/or the injured, determine whether a violation occurred, if a violation has occurred identify and locate the violator and collect and provide evidence to prove his/her culpability for the violation. A thorough report will be prepared considering all the evidence and information.

FY 06/07 GOALS:

Application Inspections (Non-Fumigation)	100
Field Worker Safety Inspections	4
Mix/Load Inspections	10
Field Fumigation Monitoring Inspections	8
Headquarter/Employee Safety Records Inspections	6
Pest Control Business Record Inspections	2
Pest Control Dealer Record Inspections	2
Agricultural Pest Control Advisor Record Inspections	4
Pre-Application Site Inspections	5% of NOI's

ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE:

The Siskiyou County Department of Agriculture is committed to assure the Siskiyou County Pesticide Program is fair, consistent and timely. The enforcement staff realizes the necessity of maintaining a climate that compels all pesticide users to comply with the law through education, presence and enforcement actions.

The department considers all appropriate enforcement options, using the ERP as a guide. The circumstances and significance of the situation, including progressive discipline especially with repeat violators, is considered in each case. Non-compliances and violations will receive timely inspection priority to follow-up compliance and enforcement actions. When all options available to the county have been exhausted the case will be referred to the California State Department of Pesticide Regulation.

ADDITIONAL PESTICIDE PROGRAMS UNIQUE TO SISKIYOU COUNTY:

Agricultural Pesticide Container Recycling:

Siskiyou County is currently in the third year of a pesticide container recycling program made possible by funding from the National Agricultural Container Recycling Council. Many permittees and pest control businesses have taken advantage of the program which provides an alternative (also cost savings) to the land fill and promotes proper container handling and disposal. The containers are stored in a small storage building which is locked and fully enclosed for safe storage of the triple rinsed pesticide containers. The containers are shredded and transported off site by the recycler.

Pesticide Use In The Tulelake Area:

Pesticides are applied on over 5, 000 acres of "federal lease-lands" within the Tulelake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges. Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner's office has taken an active advisory role in the development of Pesticide Use Proposals (PUPs) which serve as a guideline for the application of agricultural-use pesticides on crops in the Tulelake (Lower Klamath) basin. Continued cooperation will help ensure the agricultural use of this valuable resource.

Restricted Material Permits will be conditioned as appropriate to require adequate buffer zones from the treatment site to surface waters.

Pesticide use monitoring inspections (for both restricted and non-restricted pesticides) will be conducted on at least 25% of pesticide applications to assure that adequate buffers are maintained and that applications are performed in compliance with applicable Federal/State laws and PUPs. 100% use monitoring is required for some pesticide applications including Vapam, Telone, and Di-Syston. Pre-application site inspections will be conducted on 50% of "Notices of Intent" to apply restricted materials received

Many of the inspections conducted on the Tulelake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges are conducted by a non-licensed staff member and are not counted as inspections on Report 5. However, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S Fish and Wildlife agencies do accept these non-licensed inspections as valid.